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The Sociological Society

Report for the Year 1909

WITH LIST OF MEMBERS

THE SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
21, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.

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THE SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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SOCIOLOGY

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SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The science which deals with the structure and development, the disease and decline, death or renewal, of the social organism, is now at last obtaining general recognition. It is becoming common ground that societies and social institutions are proper subjects for observation, comparison, and classification, and that their evolution follows a course depending on the antecedent circumstances. In other words, it is agreed that social phenomena must be subjected to treatment by scientific methods, and that the results thus obtained are the only sure basis for any attempts at social improvement. The foundation of a Sociological Society in this country in the year 1903 was at once an evidence of the extent to which these principles were accepted and a guarantee of their further development. It was felt that those who were engaged in the scientific investigation of social phenomena would be the better for the existence of an institution which would bring before its members both what had been accomplished in the past by the founders of the science and what was being done in the present by those actually engaged in new inquiries, or in the application to social science of the results already reached. Sociology, which deals with matters of vital interest to the welfare of mankind, is for that very reason, as Hobbes pointed out in the infancy of the science, especially liable to the bias of parties, classes, interests. It is difficult to view its results in the dry light of reason or to carry out its investigations with perfect impartiality; and therefore it is especially necessary that sociologists should be able to consult together so that the bias from which no one perhaps is completely free may be counteracted by the opposing tendencies, or, it may be, the opposite errors of others.

So, too, it is desirable to control the enthusiasm for particular causes by the application of general principles, to unite the desire for practical amelioration with a sound knowledge of the causes of the evils to be treated, and of the probable effects of the measures proposed. The Sociological Society, drawn from all schools and parties, united only by the common bond of scientific method, resting on what has been done in the past, aiming at the extension of the science in the future, provides an opportunity for the discussion of social theory, the promotion of inquiry into social phenomena, and the consideration from a scientific point of view of all schemes of social improvement. These are functions that are surely of the first importance in the present age.

The papers read before the Society have dealt with a vast range of subjects, and have provoked discussions, both oral and written, in which many of the leading sociologists of the world have joined. The Society has issued three annual volumes of transactions, "Sociological Papers," and now publishes, in their stead, a quarterly, "The Sociological Review," which is in its third year. This contains, not only papers read before the Society, but other articles, discussions, reviews of books, sociological notes, abstracts of blue-books, etc., etc.

Sociology rests on biology. Such necessary ideas as that of the social organism, the pathologic state, and orderly evolution had to arise in the simpler cases presented by biology. Society is composed of units, each of which is a living organism, and therefore the structure and development of society are limited by the conditions necessary to its parts. Had the individual been differently constituted, society would have been different. On the other hand, the individual considered as a living being is profoundly influenced by social life. There are, therefore, on the very threshold of social science, a vast number of border problems, at once biological and social. These have had their full share of the Society's attention. Professor Arthur Thomson and Dr. Reid have dealt with the general relations between the two sciences. Sir Francis Galton, in two addresses on Eugenics, laid the foundation of that study which has ever since attracted much attention; and these have been followed by others, including Dr. Saleeby's lectures on "The Obstacles to Eugenics," and "Methods of Eugenics." In an address on "Race Progress and Race Degeneracy," Dr. Chatterton Hill dealt with the problem of the inheritance of acquired characteristics as it affects social well-being—a lucid and comprehensive treatment of a difficult subject. In "Natural Vicissitudes and the Social Organism," Lieut.-Colonel Roberts, I.M.S., approaches the general social effects of the environment, both cosmic and biologic, by the particular study of an Indian province. Nor has the influence of psychology on sociology been neglected. Dr. Lionel Tayler has

brought the results of a study of individuals to bear on social groupings; Dr. Slaughter has discussed the psychological factors in social transmission; and Mr. Trotter has traced the effects of the primitive herd instinct on the individual and social life of civilised man.

Two branches of social science have long been pursued separately with great ability and zeal. Political economy had even obtained considerable recognition as a separate science; anthropology almost claimed the social field to itself. But there has been for some time a growing suspicion that the rigid deductions of the classical economists were far removed from the actual facts of industrial life. And the work of inquiry into the customs and beliefs of primitive tribes was found to involve some knowledge of social structure and development. Both these studies have had their full share of attention from the Sociological Society. Economics have been studied, not as a separate science, but as one side of the composite life of the social organism. If, for purposes of investigation, abstraction has been made of the other sides, allowance has been made for their interaction in the final result. How great is the gain in reality and utility of this method of treating economic problems may be judged by Mr. J. A. Hobson's "Psychology of Public Business Enterprise," and by the many studies of practical economic problems which have appeared in the publications of the Society. So in anthropology, a series of valuable papers—Dr. Westermarck on "The Position of Women in Early Civilisation," and on "Magic"; Mr. Crawley on "The Origin of Religion"; Professor Jevons on "The Definition of Magic"; and Miss Freire-Marreco on "Authority in Uncivilised Society"—has shown the advantage of treating early civilisations from the sociologic point of view. Finally, Mr. Laurence Gomme has supported this method with great force, affirming that sociology must be the basis of inquiry into primitive culture.

Of the three chief sociologists of the nineteenth century, each was especially, though by no means exclusively, concerned with the development of sociology in a particular direction. While the dependence of that science on the previous advance of cosmology and biology was common ground to Comte and Spencer, the latter worked out the effects of those general laws to which cosmic, vital, and social phenomena are alike subject, and studied and compared those primitive civilisations in which the social relations appear in a simple form. Le Play, passing to the consideration of higher stages of development, represented the social structure as determined by the prevailing types of industry; and in his survey of various civilisations, from the nomadic and semi-nomadic of Asia to the manufacturing, of the cities of Western Europe, introduced a new method, that of the typical instance, by which the dry bones of statistics

have been made to live. And Comte, studying the historic record by his method of historic filiation, traced the stages of human progress both intellectual and material in its latest developments. And just as the sociologists of the nineteenth century inherited the work of a long series of pioneers in social studies—Bacon, Hobbes, and Vico, Montesquieu, Hume, and Condorcet—so the twentieth century has as its task to maintain, to extend, and to render fruitful of human good, the great heritage which has been left to it by the nineteenth.

To the work of the Society in the study of primitive customs and belief and in elucidating the relations of sociology with the simpler sciences, it is unnecessary again to refer. In a series of papers, Professor Geddes has shown the effects on modern civilisation of early types of industry, and Dr. H. H. Mann, following in the steps of Booth and Rowntree, has shown us in his "Life in an Agricultural Village in England" an excellent example of a social survey. In "Some Guiding Principles of the Philosophy of History," the late Dr. Bridges has given a brilliant exposition of the historical method, which Mr. Swinny has applied to the particular case of Ireland, while Professor Hobhouse has suggested a restatement of Comte's "Law of the Three Stages." Mr. Zimmern has contributed a valuable study of Greek civilisation in its relation to slavery. Among other theoretical papers, Professor Sorley's in refutation of the "Theory of Decadence" and Professor Höffding's on "The Relation between Sociology and Ethics," may be mentioned. Mr. Branford, Professor Hobhouse, and Mrs. Webb have made important contributions on the purpose and methods of the science.*

But to many of its members, the chief interest of the Society lies in the applications of sociology to the work of practical reform. As regards the social aspects of health, the need of healthy citizens for social amelioration, and on the other hand the physical effects of social arrangements, the papers by Sir Francis Galton, Dr. Lionel Tayler, and Dr. Saleeby have already been mentioned, while Dr. Leslie Mackenzie has treated of the "Sociological Aspects of Health." Criminology has been dealt with by Dr. W. D. Morrison, by Captain St. John, and by Dr. Albert Wilson, while Professor Gilbert Murray and others have dealt with education. The Chairman and Secretary represented the Society at the Moral Instruction Congress of 1908, and Miss Ravenhill at that on Public Health held at Leeds in July, 1909. The relations of dominant to subject peoples have been the subject of papers by Mr. J. M. Robertson, M.P., and the Rev. Dr. Caldecott. Sir Lewis Tupper, in his "Sociology and Comparative Politics," has

* See also Mr. Frederic Harrison's Presidential Address, delivered since this account was written, and printed in the *Sociological Review* for April, 1910.

made a study of both theoretic and practical interest. But the practical subjects that have been most often brought before the Society are those relating to the civic and industrial problems of our age. The papers of Professor Geddes have been supplemented by the work of the Cities Committee, of which he is chairman and convener; and that Committee has laid its views with much effect before the President of the Local Government Board in relation to the Town Planning Bill. Regarding the more purely industrial problems, the important paper of Mr. W. H. Beveridge deserves special notice. In this Mr. Beveridge put forward the proposal for Labour Exchanges, since enforced in his book and now established under Government authority. Seldom has a proposed amelioration in the industrial sphere been carried so quickly into practice. Sir Edward Brabrook and Mr. J. A. Hobson have discussed Old Age Pensions. The Reports of the Poor Law Commission have given rise to three articles by Dr. Bosanquet, Mr. Sidney Webb, and Sir John Gorst respectively, and a paper by Mr. R. H. Tawney. Miss B. L. Hutchins has dealt with the important subject of Woman's Industrial Career, while the relation of the Feminist movement to Eugenics has been discussed by Miss Mabel Atkinson.

These labours, extending over so wide a range, but united by a common purpose, entitle the Society to the support of all those who desire that the science of society should advance and be fruitful to the increase of knowledge and human welfare. At no previous epoch was there so great a need for education in Sociology and for the adoption of a scientific method in the consideration of current problems; for now, more than ever before, recourse is had to legislation in dealing with problems of poverty, of industrial organisation, of health, and of education; now, more than ever before, questions of national development and of racial and international relations are forced upon public attention.

THE SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Report of the Council for the Year 1909.

MEETINGS AND PAPERS.

During the year 1909 the number of ordinary meetings of the Society for papers and discussions was somewhat larger than in previous years, the total being eleven in addition to the annual meeting. The meetings of the winter session began, as usual, in October, and it may be well, before referring to the papers of the year under report, to note the subjects treated in the first part of the session 1908-9.

Professor Tönnies, of the University of Kiel, read (October 5th) a paper on "A Method of Statistical Inquiry." Professor Geddes (October 27th) delivered a lecture on "Town Planning and City Design in Sociology and in Citizenship." Mr. A. E. Zimmern read a paper (November 9th) entitled "Was Greek Civilisation based on Slave Labour?" which was published in the *Sociological Review* in two instalments, January and April, 1909. Mr. J. A. Hobson (November 30th) read a paper, which appeared in the *Review* for January, 1909, under the title of "The Psychology of Public Business Enterprise." Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts, I.M.S., read (December 14th) a paper on the Social Economy of an Indian Province, which was published in the October number of the *Review* under the title of "Natural Vicissitudes and the Social Organism."

The meetings of the year began, on January 18th, with the annual general meeting. Mr. Frederic Harrison was elected President for the year. The presidential address was delivered by the retiring President, Sir Edward Brabrook. The address, which took the form of a brief survey of the Society's work in the various departments of sociological inquiry, was published in the April number of the

Sociological Review. The remaining papers of the session (read, unless otherwise stated, in the rooms of the Society) were as follows:—

Dr. Gilbert Slater: "The Future of London Government," Mr. G. Laurence Gomme, Clerk of the London County Council, presiding. The meeting was held in the hall of the Royal Society of Arts, February 8th.

Mr. F. G. D'Aeth: "Present Tendencies of Class Differentiation," Mr. S. H. Swinny presiding. February 22nd.

Dr. C. W. Saleeby: "The Obstacles to Eugenics," Mr. Frederic Harrison presiding. The meeting was held in the hall of Clifford's Inn, March 8th, and the paper was published in the *Sociological Review*, July, 1909.

Dr. G. Chatterton Hill: "Race Progress and Race Degeneracy," Mr. S. H. Swinny presiding. March 22nd. (*Sociological Review*, April and July, 1909.)

Mr. C. Delisle Burns: "The Religious Order in the West," Mr. S. H. Swinny presiding. May 4th. (*Sociological Review*, January, 1910.)

Mr. R. H. Tawney: "The Theory of Pauperism," Dr. C. S. Loch presiding. May 24th. (*Sociological Review*, October, 1909.)

Five meetings were arranged for the first part of the session 1909-10. They were all held in the Hall of the Royal Society of Arts, as follows:—

Mr. G. Laurence Gomme: "Sociology the Basis of Inquiry into Primitive Culture," Sir Edward Brabrook presiding. October 13th. (*Sociological Review*, October, 1909.)

Miss Sybella Gurney: "Civic Reconstruction and the Garden City Movement," Mr. Ebenezer Howard presiding. October 26th. (*Sociological Review*, January, 1910.)

Professor Geddes: "City Surveys and City Reports: their Methods and Uses," Mr. S. H. Swinny presiding. November 16th.

The Rev. Professor Caldecott: "International and Inter-racial Relations," Mr. S. H. Swinny presiding. November 30th. (*Sociological Review*, January, 1910.)

Mr. S. K. Ratcliffe: "Sociology in the English Novel," Mr. Richard Whiteing presiding. December 14th. (*Sociological Review*, April, 1910.)

In accordance with the resolution of the Council approving a proposal to resume the afternoon Research Meetings which were a successful feature of the Society's work in its earlier stages, one such meeting was arranged for at the end of the year. It was held on December 7th in the temporary Civics Room at the University of London. Professor Geddes, continuing the subject of his address to the Society in November, opened a discussion on "Civics as Essential to the Study of Sociology."

THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL RESOURCES.

The movement, initiated more than a generation ago by some of the smaller European nations, towards a state policy of conservation and development of national resources having now penetrated this country, the Council of the Society has considered the question of appointing a Development Committee, to run concurrently in co-operation with the Cities Committee. The question first came forward in a letter from Sir Horace Plunkett asking for information as to sociological sources on town and country relations. It would appear that apart from economic aspects and crude statistics of population movements, this is a field of investigation almost unexplored sociologically. On the other hand, practical experiments in Rural Development are taking place, on all scales from parochial to national, amongst Western peoples. Among these experiments, that of Ireland under Sir Horace Plunkett's guidance is one of the most notable. How far may such a movement be observed and interpreted sociologically? What is its value for sociological science? What formulated experience can it contribute to the making and guidance of a Development Policy elsewhere—in England, for instance? What generally are the sociological resources available towards such a problem?

A small private conference to consider these questions was held at the Society's rooms in February. It was opened by Sir Horace Plunkett with an address mainly devoted to signalling the special difficulties of the problem arising out of what he called the "urbanisation" of contemporary thought, *i.e.*, the mental bias of townsmen, which tends to assume that rural life is amenable to the economic and political machinery of the cities. Sir Horace contended, on the contrary, that rural life from its very nature demands a social organisation differing radically in its economy from the competitive joint-stock system of the modern city, with its correlated pecuniary culture. Amongst those who contributed to the discussion were the Earl of Dunmore, Professor Geddes, Miss Gurney, the Earl of Leitrim, Mr. V. A. Malcolmson, Alderman Thompson, and Mr. J. Martin White. After Sir Horace Plunkett's address to the Society on April 26th, the Council will consider what, if any, steps the Society can take towards advancing the problem of National Development.

THE SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW.

The quarterly *Sociological Review*, designed to replace the *Sociological Papers* after the publication of the third volume, is now in its third year. It serves not only as a means of publishing papers which

have been read before the Society, but also as a forum for special discussions and for the publication of papers which for one reason or another are not available as lectures. As will be seen by a reference to the list of contents given on another page, the range of questions treated is very wide. The subject of the greatest practical importance dealt with during the year was the problem of the Poor Law. Advantage was taken of the publication of the Reports of the Royal Commission to arrange for a statement of the principal questions at issue by writers of authority representing various points of view. The April number contained articles by Dr. Bernard Bosanquet and Mr. Sidney Webb, and the July number one by Sir John Gorst. The *Review* now goes to a large number of societies and libraries, many of which are enrolled as subscribers, and efforts are being made to enlarge its sphere of influence on the Continent and in the United States. With a view both to extending the circulation and making the work of the Society more widely known, members are asked to let the Secretary have the names of any persons specially interested in sociological research and discussion to whom a specimen copy of the *Review* might be sent.

STUDY GROUPS AND STUDENT ASSOCIATES.

The Council has afforded the hospitality of the Society's rooms to a group of University Extension students formed from those who attended a course of lectures by Mr. Branford in the Lent term of 1909 at Gresham College on the history of the Social Sciences. The group meets at 21, Buckingham Street, at 8.15 p.m. once a month. It is (within limited numbers) open to ordinary members of the Society or to student associates. Intending members should communicate with the Hon. Secretary of the group, Mrs. Travers Symons, 10, Clifford's Inn, E.C. Members of this group, and any others who may be attending classes in sociology at any recognised institution, are eligible as student associates of the Sociological Society at a nominal subscription of half-a-crown for the year.

MEMBERSHIP.

The Society closed the year with a membership of 388, consisting of 36 Life Members, 330 Ordinary, 20 Corresponding, and 2 Honorary. The bulk of the members belong to Great Britain, and, naturally, a very large proportion are drawn from London and the metropolitan area. There is, however, gratifying evidence of the extent of the Society's appeal in the fact that the roll contains many names representative of sociological inquiry on the continent of Europe, in America, and in

other quarters of the world. The Council would impress upon members the necessity of increasing the numerical strength of the Society, and for this purpose they suggest that good use may be made of the present Report with its introductory statement of the scope of sociological research and the aims and record of the Society. The Secretary will be glad to send copies to any address that may be furnished to him.

OFFICES AND OFFICERS.

At the beginning of the year the Society lost the services of its Secretary, Dr. J. W. Slaughter, who had occupied the position for rather more than three years. A sub-committee of the Council was nominated to deal with the very large number of applications for the vacant post, and at the end of January Mr. S. K. Ratcliffe was appointed. Mr. J. Martin White and Mr. Victor Branford continue to serve the Society as, respectively, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary.

At midsummer the Society removed from its old quarters at 24, Buckingham Street, to new rooms on the first floor of No. 21. The change is advantageous in several respects, the new rooms being more accessible to callers and lower in rental. They are not, however, suitable for the public meetings of the Society, which are now held, under much more agreeable conditions than formerly, in the Hall of the Royal Society of Arts.

"THE SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW."

The *Sociological Review*, the organ of the Sociological Society, is published quarterly on the 15th of January, April, July, and October, and is supplied to members of the Society free of charge. The price to non-members is 2s. 6d. net, quarterly; annual subscription, post free, 11s. 6d.

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To Salaries, Wages, and Travelling Expenses	-	-	-	-	By Annual Subscriptions—				
Rent	-	-	198	18	for 1909	-	-	276	7
" Dilapidations of Old Premises	-	-	61	0	Arrears (received) for 1906	-	-	4	0
" Heating, Lighting, and Water	-	-	4	0	do.	1907	-	6	6
" Telephone	-	-	6	11	do.	1908	-	13	6
" General Expenditure	-	-	7	13					
" Expenses of Removal to New Premises	-	-	5	7	Life Subscriptions	-	-	299	19
			16	7	" Student Associates' Subscriptions	-	-	10	10
					" Miscellaneous Receipts	-	-	8	6
					" Volume Account—			5	0
					Sales—Macmillan & Co., for one year to 30th June, 1909	-	16	18	0
<i>Less</i> Proportion allocated to Review a/c			£299	19	<i>Less</i> Expenses in connection therewith	-	-	2	7
			124	15				14	10
					Sundry Sales	-	-	2	9
To Printing and Stationery	-	-	175	3	" <i>Deficiency for the Year</i>	-	-	17	0
" Postages and Telegrams	-	-	19	1				15	6
" Publications	-	-	18	9				3	½
" Bank Interest and Charges	-	-	7	9½					
" Hire of Rooms	-	-	7	7					
" Depreciation of Office Furniture at 5 per cent. per annum	-	-	11	11					
" Amount granted to Dr. Hill in connection with the proposed Bureau of Information	-	-	2	13					
" Sociological Review supplied to Members	-	-	8	14					
			100	0					
			£343	9					

£343 9 4½

SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW ACCOUNT.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1909.

<i>Expenditure.</i>		£ s. d.		<i>Income.</i>		£ s. d.	
To	Proportion of Society's Salaries, Rent and General Expenditure for year to December 31,			By Donations	-	-	2 13 4
	1909	-	-	" Sales of Review—			
	Stationery and Printing	-	-	Sherratt and Hughes	-	-	24 16 10
	Postages and Telegrams	-	-	Sundry Sales	-	-	4 4 4
	Sundry Expenses	-	-				
	Advertising	-	-	" Allowed by Society for Copies supplied to Members	-	-	29 1 2
	Publishing Account	-	-	" Deficiency to be met by Guarantors			100 0 0
							164 9 10½
							<u>£296 4 4½</u>

I have examined the above Income and Expenditure Accounts with the books and vouchers of the Society and certify them to be in accordance therewith.

DUNCAN F. BASDEN

(Mellors, Basden & Co., Chartered Accountants).

LONDON, E.C.
March 3, 1910.

THE SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL	-	-	S. H. SWINNY, M.A.
HONORARY TREASURER	-	-	J. MARTIN WHITE, J.P.
HONORARY SECRETARY	-	-	VICTOR V. BRANFORD, M.A.
SECRETARY	-	-	S. K. RATCLIFFE.
BANKERS : THE CLYDESDALE BANK, Lombard Street, E.C.			

The Sociological Society was constituted in November, 1903, at a meeting in the rooms of the Royal Statistical Society, at which were present representatives of all departments of social investigation as well as of practical interests—political, educational, philanthropic, religious, etc.

The aims of the Society are scientific, educational, and practical. It seeks to promote investigation, and to advance education in the social sciences in their various aspects and applications. It aims at affording a common ground on which workers from all fields and schools concerned with social phenomena may meet—economist and historian, psychologist and moralist, anthropologist and archæologist, geographer and naturalist; as also physician and alienist, criminologist and jurist, hygienist and educationist, philanthropist and social reformer, politician and cleric.

The Sociological Society prosecutes its work by the holding of meetings for papers and discussions, by the collection of relevant periodical and book literature, and by publications. The meetings are held about twelve times in the year in the Hall of the Royal Society of Arts.

The foreign correspondents of the Society include many of the most eminent Continental and American sociologists. Membership is open to all interested in sociological studies. Annual subscription, £1 1s. (26 francs; 5 dollars; 21 marks); payable in advance on January 1st. Payment for Life Membership, £10 10s. (260 francs; 50 dollars; 210 marks).

Cheques in payment of subscription and of donations should be crossed Clydesdale Bank, and forwarded to the Secretary, 21, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C., from whom further information can be had.

Libraries and other corporate bodies are admissible as members.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

To the SECRETARY,
SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY,
21, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.

Please enter my name as an applicant for Membership of the Sociological Society. I enclose :

Cheque

P.O.

Bankers' Order

} for

being amount of Subscription* for One Year (or for Life Membership).

Name.....

Occupation or Designation

Address.....

Date.....

* Annual Subscription £1 1s. ; Life Membership £10 10s.

BANKERS' ORDER.

To MESSRS.....

Bankers.

Please pay the CLYDESDALE BANK, Lombard Street, E.C., my Annual Subscription of £
to the SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY, due on January 1st, 19 , and the same amount on that day in each succeeding year until further notice.

Date.....



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